

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated June 16, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Specifically, in claim 1, in the examiner's opinion, the phrase "such as" renders the claim indefinite, and states further that it is unclear what the applicant intends to claim with the recitation of "which can include . . .". Additionally, with regard to claim 6, the examiner states it is unclear what is encompassed by the phrase "variables as defined in the above description of the invention". The examiner has allowed claims 19-30.

The applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-18 and her reasons for the rejections. In response, the applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 in order to obviate these issues. The support surface is generic and does not need examples of support surfaces recited in claim 1, so the phrase "such as . . ." is deleted. Claim 1 is also amended to eliminate the phrase "which can include . . ." and to provide antecedent basis and more conventional claim language to recite that feature without narrowing the claim. Additional amendments are made in claims 1, 2, 3, 6, and 11 to provide consistent terminology and antecedent bases for the "distal end portion" and "leg lever". Claim 6 is amended to recite the variables for the formula instead of referring to the specification.

CONCLUSION

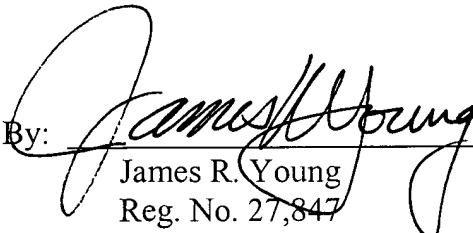
All of the pending claims 1-30, as amended, are now believed to be allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for the reasons explained above. Therefore, the examiner is requested to withdraw her previous rejections and objections and to grant an early allowance. If any issues remain to

be resolved, the examiner is requested to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,
COCHRAN FREUND & YOUNG LLC

Dated: September 16, 2004

By:



James R. Young
Reg. No. 27,847
Tel.: 970-377-6363